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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**PATENT**

#9

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Martin Bleck *et al.*

APPLICATION No.: 09/811,261

FILED: 16 March 2001

FOR: **ELECTRODE SEMICONDUCTOR  
WORKPIECE HOLDER AND PROCESSING  
METHODS**

EXAMINER: William T. Leader

ART UNIT: 1741

CONF. No: 9941

**Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated 22 May 2002 in the above-identified application. A separate petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this amendment.

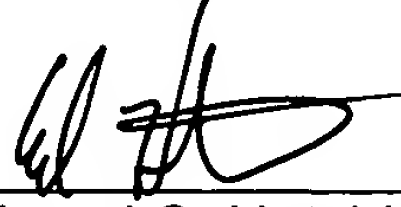
The outstanding Office Action states that claims 1-7 are pending in the present application and rejects claims 1-7 on a variety of bases. The undersigned does not agree with the Examiner's basis for rejecting these claims, but the issue is moot because claims 1-7 were cancelled in a preliminary amendment filed with the application on 16 March 2001. A copy of that preliminary amendment is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned requests that the Office withdraw the present Office Action and issue a new communication considering the claims presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed 16 March 2001. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 264-3848.

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SEP 27 2002  
**TC 1700**

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP



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Edward S. Hotchkiss  
Registration No. 33,904

Date: 23 SEPT 02

**Correspondence Address:**

Customer No. 25096  
Perkins Coie LLP  
P.O. Box 1247  
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247  
(206) 583-8888



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Attorney Docket No. 4492P1003US; Client No. P96-0010US4)

Applicant: Bleck, Martin C. et al

For: ELECTRODE SEMICONDUCTOR WORKPIECE HOLDER AND  
PROCESSING METHODS

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: March 16, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the present application in the following manner prior to substantive examination thereof.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, insert before line 1 -- This application is a continuation of USSN 09/300,610, filed April 27, 1999, which is a continuation of USSN 08/680,057, filed July 15, 1996. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice and at the following as new claims 8-15.

8. A workpiece processing method comprising:

positioning an electrode against a workpiece surface, said electrode having an electrode tip

having a sheath, said sheath having a sheath tip rim;